



MEMBERS EXCHANGE

Vol. 6 - No. 4, October, 1993

American Medalllic Sculpture Association,
P.O. Box 2727, New York, NY 10185

Cast Iron Gallery Show

The Cast Iron Gallery Show has been judged. Invitations for the show opening on 4 December will be mailed separately, but mark your calendar now.

1994 Traveling Show, *The New Medal* !

The 1994 Traveling Show Committee (Don and Carol Everhart, George Cuhaj) had a very pleasant meeting with Mr. Jack Wilke and Mr. John van Enden of the Franklin Mint on September 22, 1993. Plans were finalized for the Prospectus, Jury of Entries, Jury of Awards, Catalogue, Opening, Press Kit and Venue Calendar. The prospectus will be mailed directly to all current members, and many prospective members. If you wish a friend or associate to be included in the show, please send their name and mailing address real soon, to the AMSA P.O. Box so that we may include their works in the show.

In the next few weeks, you will all be receiving the prospectus for the AMSA 1994-1994 Traveling Exhibition, *The New Medal*. This is going to be a truly exciting exhibition opportunity for all our AMSA members to have their works seen in Pennsylvania, New York City, Detroit and Colorado Springs. This will bring national exposure and will be opened with a gala kick-off event at the Franklin Mint Museum in Wawa, PA, this May.

We have been working closely with the Franklin Mint Foundation for the Arts representatives to plan the details and logistics of the show venues and we are very excited by the level of the Mint's interest and involvement. The reception will be a five star event with plenty of food, live entertainment, Awards for the Medals, and most importantly, a first rate presentation of our works in the beautiful Franklin Mint Museum. Having been a former employee of the Mint, I have been to many of their receptions over the years, and can vouch for the effort and professional workmanship they will put into this exhibit!

Public Meeting set for November 20th Show & Tell Meeting - Bring something! New Location!

The first Public Meeting of the season will be held Saturday, November 20th, at 2 PM. The meeting will take place in the Board Room of the Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue, (near 11th Street). Along with general membership news and reports, we would like to make this the Show and Tell Meeting. Bring something new from your collection, made by you or someone you know or like. Please be prepared to tell those attending why you chose the item to share. See you there!

Errors & Omissions

In the *Members Exchange* of Vol.6, No.3; your editor distributed a copy of an article written by David T. Alexander which originally appeared in *Coinage* magazine. AMSA wishes to apologize to Mr. Alexander, author of the article, and to *Coinage* for reprinting the article without permission, and for omitting credit to *Coinage*.

From the President

Many thanks go out to Jack Wilkie, Vice President, and John Van Emden, Director of Numismatics at the Franklin Mint, for their commitment and enthusiasm to help make out exhibit first rate! We are looking forward to a varied and aesthetically stimulating array of works from our members for this traveling show. We also thank the Franklin Mint Foundation for the Arts for making the cash awards possible. The awards will include a Best of Show, second and third prizes, and a People's Choice Award at each venue.

Please Note: Because this show is traveling to all new venues, ALL WORK IS ELIGIBLE! even if previously exhibited with AMSA. We are encouraging you to send in your best works!

Let's show everyone just why AMSA is the foremost medalllic sculpture organization in the country! Now, aren't you glad we bugged you endlessly to make extra copies all year!!!

Sincerely yours,
Don Everhart II

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West Chester, PA 19425

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Western - Marika Somogyi
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Board of Directors:

1991-1994 - Leonda Finke, Joseph V. Noble
1992-1995 - Irving Mazze, Karen Worth
1993-1996 - Amanullah Haiderzad, Ann Pollack

AMSA Member's Calendar of Events

November 1, 1993 - Holiday Ornament Show Deadline
November 20, 1993, Public Meeting 2PM
Members' Show & Tell
November 21, 1993 - Holiday Ornament Show
State College, PA.
December 4, 1993 - Cast Iron Show Opening.
December 4-24, 1993 - Cast Iron Show, NYC.
January 15, 1994 - Public Meeting.
February 1, 1994 - Traveling Show Deadline.
March 19, 1994 - Public Meeting.
Karen Worth, speaker.
April 6-9 1994 - FIDEM'94, Budapest, Hungary.
May 15, 1994 - Gala opening at Franklin Mint, PA.
May 17, 1994 - Public opening at Franklin Mint.
May 21, 1994 - Annual & Public Meeting.
June 14, 1994 - Venue closes at Franklin Mint.
July 1994 - University of Michigan Workshop.
July 27-31 1994 - ANA Convention, Detroit Show venue.
September 17, 1994 - Public Meeting.
November 19, 1994 - Public Meeting.
November-December 1994 - Traveling Show at
National Sculpture Society, NYC
January 1995-June 1995 - Traveling Show at
ANA Museum, Colorado Springs, CO
Public Meetings are held at the
Salmagundi Club
47 Fifth Avenue
(between 11th & 12 Street)
Board Meetings are held at need and announced in
advance.

Members Exchange, Vol. 6 - No. 4

Published in even numbered months by AMSA
P.O. Box 2727, New York, NY 10185

Editor - George S. Cuhaj

Contributors - Irwin Batter, Reinhold Flören, Carol
Everhart, Don Everhart II, Chester Martin, Douglas
White.

The AMSA Medals Program

Medals Program Chairman Maryvonne Rosse is requesting from the membership original designs for consideration as a upcoming AMSA medal. She thanks those who have submitted drawings in the past, and would encourage others (you know who you are) to do so before November 15th. Send your drawings directly to Maryvonne Rosse, 431 Buena Vista Road, New City, NY 10956.

Dues are Due !

It is hoped that you have already acted on the dues notice recently sent out. In any organization, it is real hard to make realistic and attainable goals and plans without knowing what the numbers will be. So if you have not sent in your dues, please do so today.

Still only \$35.00 for AMSA, and again a FIDEM transfer will be done, at an additional \$35.00.

Numismatic Excellence in Art Award presented by the ANA to Chester Martin

At the Baltimore Convention of the American Numismatic Association, their Numismatic Excellence in Art Award (a four ounce gold medal) was presented to Chester Y. Martin. An artist known to all active members, Chester has been a supporter of AMSA from the start. He participated in John Cook's Penn State Medallion Workshop, designed Medals for the Society of Medallists, Brookgreen Gardens and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Chester has also participated in FIDEM's in Florence, Stockholm and London (His medals were shown at these, plus the two he was unable to attend - Colorado Springs and Helsinki). After six years as a Sculptor-Engraver at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia, Chester has returned to his home and studio in Chattanooga, TN where he has resumed painting in oils and watercolors; sculpting busts and figures; and firing porcelain in his kiln.

At What Price in the service of AMSA ? A Cuhaj Editorial

Do AMSA Officers and Board Members get paid?

NOT. I'm really sorry to inform all the members just clambering to run for office that except for expenses of long distance phone calls or some incidental postage when necessary to mail major things about, there just is not any compensation. (However, there is a real untangible good feeling one fellow human gets when helping another). One can take off the 18¢ a mile that the IRS allows in the service of a charity, as well as the long distance phone if you don't want to turn in the bills. Otherwise, thanks for your expertise! Service with a smile!

Don't whine about juries ! Hey, grow up! Long ago in the dim ages when AMSA was formed as an open membership organization, with no artistic qualifications, it was decided to have juried shows. Thus the chances would be slim of a medal so totally banal, and thus totally embarrassing to AMSA being accepted into a show. A wholesome integrity is assembled with juried shows. Attempts are made, I am sure, by any jury to try to accept something from everyone. However, if you the artist decide to only enter only one piece, then you are making a choice to take the chance of that piece not being acceptable into the show that that particular jury is forming. One way around this is to either enter more than one piece, or make sure the one piece you enter is of extreme quality and excellence. **Never call a jury member** after the results to ask particulars of who voted for what, or why my piece was not accepted and that one got in. That is very unprofessional! Many times juries serve for little to no compensation, and they do not need to be harassed. Anyway, the best jury members should

not even consider answering your questions; and they better not gossip about their fellow jury members. Take your lumps. Try again another time. **Never call someone before a judging either!** Most people don't have a clue what will be accepted or not, so worrying before the incident is even sillier. In the end, this all comes under the heading of Grow Up!, and accept responsibility for your own actions.

So, at what price AMSA? On a recent Wednesday, when one Mr. Cuhaj was on his way to the traveling show's committee meeting at the Franklin Mint, he was approached by two men while not more than forty feet from his home. These two individuals produced an ice pick and a large knife, poking several holes through his relatively new shirt; pushed him against the nearest building wall, and proceeded to request cash type money, emptying his pockets of some sixty dollars. After giving cheerfully, the two men went quickly on their way and left Cuhaj to pick up his coins which were spilled on the sidewalk. I'm happy to report that Cuhaj went back home, got more cash, and proceeded to make that early morning train to the meeting, and participate reasonably coherently.

So, one may ask? Is AMSA worth sixty bucks and a new shirt? I think so. Should I be so mad as to no longer contribute to AMSA and its programs because while it its service I was placed in an uncomfortable situation? I don't think so. It was one of the small prices one pays for living in the big city. Be alert, the world needs more lerts. An then again, just think of the design possibilities for a medal on the theme of the incident? And in the end, far more people suffered on Amtrak that morning than I.

Books, Magazines and Lapel Pins Available for Purchase

AMSA has a stock of the following Books and Magazines available for purchase. Place your orders to: AMSA, Box 2727, New York, NY 10185. All book sales are postpaid.

Directory of Members 1992, \$10. each
or five for \$25.

Back Issues of *Medallic Sculpture*:

Issue #4 (Spring 1988) - \$5.

Issue #5 (Fall 1989) - \$5.

Issue #6 (Autumn 1990) - \$5.

Issue #7 (October 1993) - \$5.

AMSA Members Lapel Pin - \$10.

Medals. By Dora DePedery-Hunt. 112 pgs. Illustrated Catalogue of her Early works. \$10.

FIDEM'87 The US and Canadian Medals. Excerpt from the Official Catalogue. 20 pgs. \$5.

FIDEM'87. The Official Catalogue. \$15.

Up to your ears in Art Books?

If you are like many others, and are up to your elbows in art magazines, older How to sketch books, and the like, try making contact with a local High School Art Department. Education budgets seem to be on the back burner in many locations, and contributions of this kind are ususally greatly appreciated by the teachers and student alike. Take some time and organize what you don't need, and gather a sample or two to bring along to an appointment with a contact at the school of your choice. Once the teacher sees what you got, then you can work something out as to how they can get the rest from you. This could become an annual event!

It's your small part in encouraging a whole new generation of artists and sculptors, and it should make you feel good inside.

IN MEMORIUM

Elaine Leotti-Batter

Elaine Leotti-Batter (52) died 5 September 1993 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Ms. Leotti was educated at Wheaton College and the Boston Museum School of Art. She was co-founder and editor of *The Medallist* for eight years until health impaired research and production. The publication included articles on museum exhibitions, historical and modern medals, auctions and fixed price lists. It was enjoyed by its readership as nothing like it was around (or has come along to replace it). Along with her husband Irwin, they traveled the United States in a motor home, and for a time settled in the Pacific Northwest, where they operated a gallery, *The West Wind*, which supported the works of several AMSA members. They eventually relocated to Ashaway RI, where she died. Elaine is survived by her husband Irwin Batter, and her daughter Kristen Leotti of Keene NH.



Participants of C.A. Brown's Free Casting Opportunity

For the third time Steve Brown, President of the C.A. Brown Foundry in Cranston RI has presented to AMSA members the opportunity of a free casting in bronze of a reasonable size medal.

Through this, it was hoped that new members would get use to the lost wax casting process, and offer new medal designs into the AMSA and FIDEM shows. AMSA was supportive of Mr. Brown's efforts and assisted in a small way by reimbursing postage.

We thank the following AMSA members for participating: Joseph Caluori, George Cuhaj, Michael Evert, Don Everhart, Leonda Finke, Gerri Gould, Herbert Leopold, Janice Loomis, Jacqueline Lorieo, Eleanor R. Maher, Mashilo, Yefkin Megherian, Linda Nelson, Daniel Noll, Ann Pollack, Vladimir Rodin, Jean Schonwalter, Hans Kelly Somey, Marika Somogyi, Jeanne Stevens-Sollman, Patricia Verani.

Bennedict Tatti

Bennedict Tatti (79) died 30 July 1993. He received his art education at the Leonardo DaVinci School of Art, the Roerich Museum Art School and the Art Students League, all in New York City. He worked with Hans Hoffman, Raymond Loewy, William Zorach and Isamu Noguchi to name a few. Ben taught for fifteen years at New York City's High School of Art & Design; becoming Sculpture Department Chairman. Ben was a pioneer in video art. He was particularly proud of being one of the team to restore the Statue of Liberty. A frequent attendee at our meetings, he was recently motivated to get more involved in AMSA; first, accepting to be nominated for office, and most recently serving on the upcoming Cast Iron Gallery Show committee. As Ben wrote in AMSA's biographical sketch, his "*preference was to work directly in bronze, iron or steel; thus allowing for the freedom of expression and exploration. Through the analysis of 3-D forms Tatti seeks to redefine and expand the third dimension towards a dynamic and vital sculptural medal.*" He is survived by his wife, Adele who plans to have his current medals finished and entered in a future show.

AMSA Conference at University of Michigan

AMSA member Douglas White has made arrangements with the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. The two week workshop is scheduled for July 1994. The first week of the workshop will be a foundation in the Art of the medal, modeling clay designs, making molds and waxes in preparation for casting. Finishing and patination may also be covered. The second week would concentrate on the bas-relief concerns for a struck medal. It is planned that the instructor will Eugene Daub, former AMSA Vice President, and one who has taught at the Pennsylvania Academy and Scottsdale Artists School. Arrangements are being made for participants to take the class for university credit or not, or one week or both. University housing will be made available at an extra charge. More information will follow.

German Numismatic Publisher Requests Photos of American Medallists

Active FIDEM member, and friend of the medallist, Reinhard Flören has asked that if you have medals for sale, please send a photo of them, with the price in \$US (which should include overseas postage) for possible publication in the magazine which he edits. Black and White same size prints are best. If you have any questions, please correspond directly with him. **Reinhard Flören, Geldgeschichtliche Nachrichten, Henry-Budge St.65, D-6000, Frankfurt am Main, GERMANY.**